SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.

Repeated tremors in Idukki district of Kerala

SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM (Kerala): Sir, the district of Idukki in Central Kerala had a series of tremors recently and lakhs of people living in thickly populated areas like Kattar, Nedumkandam, Mundiyeruma, Thookkupalam etc. are panic-stricken. Apart from the safety of the people living in these areas, the Idukki hydro-electric dam, one of the biggest in Asia, is also in danger.

The first tremor this year started at 8.36 a.m. on June 7 and this was followed by a series of tremors and landslides. Many houses and government buildings got their walls broken because of these tremors. The panic-stricken villagers left their houses and spent several nights in the fields and that too in pouring rain. Idukki district was experiencing these earthquakes for the last several years. Between 1974 and 1976 as many as 1052 tremors were recorded and between May 1978 and June 1981 another 1348 tremors occurred. What is alarming is that the magnitude of these tremors has been increasing over the years.

These tremors have made the dam very vulnerable and if anything goes wrong the entire population upto Cochin will be wiped out. In this connection, I would like to remind the House that the Vaiont Dam tragedy in Itali on October 9, 1963, occurred due to similar causes. The huge wave of water which overflowed claimed over two thousand lives and erased the town of Longorone. Since the Idukki district is much more thickly populated, the consequences will be severe.

Nobody knows the real cause of these frequent tremors in Idukki district. Acording to some, these tremors are common after the construction of dam and occur when the reservoir is full. A few scientists who conducted an inquiry have not been able to pinpoint the reason due to inadequate data available to them. The National Geophysical Research Institute at Hyderabad has suggested monitoring of the area for a period of three months, but so far the State Goverament has not lent them any support. I, therefore, request the honourable Minister to come to the help of the people of Kerala and find out the causes for these repeated tremors. ...(*Interruptions*)... A monitoring centre may be set up immediately to collect proper data. It may also be looked into whether any steps can be taken to put a stop to these tremors. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री आनन्द शर्मा) : श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा जी, अब आप अपना स्पेशल मेंशन कीजिए।

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, अब काफी समय हो गया है, यदि स्पेशल मेंशंस कल से लिए जाएं तो ठीक रहेगा।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): If Chairman agrees for Monday, I have no objection.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : सभी लोग चाहते हैं। आप इजाजत दे दें तो अगले दिन हो जाएंगे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री आनन्द शर्मा) दूसरे सदस्य बैठे हुए हैं, वे आज ही बोलना चाहते हैं। अगले दिन तो आपको इजाजत लेनी पड़ेगी।

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Ask for the rules. If this Special Mention lapses today, you will have to seek permission again.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : अगले दिन कर लेंगे।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): There are other Members also and they want to proceed with their Special Mentions. They have indicated so.

आपको इसके लिए अगले दिन फिर नोटिस देना पड़ेगा।